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2004-32
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re patent application of:

Richard A. Hynes

Serial No.: 10/099,797

Filed: March 15, 2002

SPINAL FIXATION SYSTEM AND
RELATED METHODS

)
) Before the Examiner
) Michael B. Priddy
)
)
) Group Art Unit: 3732
)
) February 9, 2004
)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Monday, Feb. 9, 2004.

Christopher A. Brown
Name of Registered Representative

Christopher A. Brown
Signature

Monday, Feb. 9, 2004
Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following. No extensions of time are believed necessary, and no fees are believed to be due. If any extensions of time or fees are deemed necessary, please grant such extensions or charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, Examiner Priddy issued a restriction requirement between two groups of claims. Specifically, Examiner Priddy identified claim group I as claims 1-15, which he categorized as drawn to a spinal fixation system, and claim group II as claims 16-34, which he categorized as drawn to a method of instrumentation. The Examiner also maintained that an election of species was necessary.